

NEWS RELEASE

**OFFICE OF THE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF ILLINOIS**

**RANDY G. MASSEY
ACTING UNITED STATES ATTORNEY**

Nine Executive Drive, Fairview Heights, Illinois 62208, Telephone (618) 628-3700

For Immediate Release

APRIL 6, 2006

INDIANA MAN SENTENCED IN MINE SAFETY CASE

Randy G. Massey, Acting United States Attorney for the Southern District of Illinois, announced today that on April 6, 2006, **LARRY G. BUNNER**, age 34, of Cannelton, Indiana, was sentenced in the United States District Court in Benton, Illinois. BUNNER was sentenced to 6 months imprisonment, was fined \$500, and was placed on 2 years supervised release.

BUNNER had previously pleaded guilty to two counts charging him with making material false statements and representations to employees of the Mine Safety and Health Administration in violation of Title 18, United States Code, Sections 1001 and 2. This case arises out the April 9, 2003, death of coal miner Adam Scott and the subsequent investigation into the cause of his death by the Mine Safety and Health Administration and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Office of Mines and Minerals.

David G. Dye, Acting Assistant Secretary of Labor for Mine Safety and Health, said, "MSHA is pleased that its investigation of this case resulted in a sentence that sends a clear message that unlawful conduct that jeopardizes miners' safety will not be tolerated."

Three other defendants have been charged in this case and await trial, which is scheduled for May 22, 2006.

The investigation in this case was conducted by the Mine Safety and Health Administration and the Illinois Department of Natural Resources, Office of Mines and Minerals.

The case is being handled by Assistant United States Attorney George Norwood.